

Direct Action

For workers direct control of industry

no. 2

5p

PAPER OF THE SYNDICALIST WORKERS' FEDERATION (IWMA)

Homeless AND JOBLESS

STOP THE SPECULATORS!

The number of homeless, both single people and families is rapidly increasing in Britain. Meanwhile hundreds of thousands of houses both new and old, lie empty throughout the country while GOVERNMENT ministers and the building societies squabble over the financing of mortgages. The situation is not helped by the presence of huge new empty office blocks in nearly every major town in the country. Most local authorities are building fewer and fewer council houses each year, whilst allowing inner-city terrace type housing to be pulled down in order to make way for more profit making office blocks.

Property developers stop at nothing to impose their glass and concrete monstrosities on our city centres at the expense of peoples homes. A suitable amount of money will bring a property development company's plans to the front of a council planning committee and a donation to an organisation like 'Shelter' will get rid of squatters who are holding up demolition work.

Squatting is becoming more and more a permanent feature of inner city life. Often it has been forced on people who were sub-tenants or rented furnished rooms in properties which have been demolished to make way for office and shop development, and were not rehoused but merely dumped on the end of an already thousands strong waiting list of homeless and badly housed people.

In inner London alone there are over 10,000 people who have been forced to squat as have thousands more in every major urban centre throughout the country.

Cont, on page 8

British Leyland is now pulling out another stop in its, obviously planned attempt to reduce its workforce to the american condition, i.e. well paid slavery.

In the early part of this year, after much protracted negotiation with the unions involved, British Leyland was successful in introducing a flat rate system of payment into its Cawley plant. At first sight this would have seemed to be an improvement, from the workers point of view, on the old piece rate system. However the Cowley management very quickly disabused this idea. They introduced "Time and Motion Engineers", the idea being that every twitch of a finger, toe or elbow should be directed towards company profit.

Cont. on page 4.



"We Conservatives have always believed in home ownership — I personally own over a hundred and fifty!"



THRU SYNDICALIST GLASSES

There's a lot of fallen idols from 'high' places shattering the illusions of many of our more humble brethren to be seen these days. Corruption, deception, chicanery are seen to be the order of the day among our 'superior' castes, the lords, the politicians, tycoons and trade union 'leaders'. Space would not permit to mention particular individuals in a cursory kind of way let alone a detailed kind. It is also not the purpose of this writer to mud sling at individuals within the above mentioned clique. Where the hell could I find enough mud? So let me suffice to say that the behavior of these people is to a greater or lesser degree the inevitable outcome of their economic and social position. The aforementioned clique live off the backs of the working class by some means or another. The landlords by rent, the bankers by interest, business tycoons by profit, the politicians by taxation and probably an admixture of rent, interest and profit the trade union top brass have relatively large salaries through invested capital and perhaps a supplemented income through writing for the press or similar exploits. Their income puts them in another class. The sincerity of many trade union leaders cannot be denied in the earlier part of their careers. Eventually however, they become conditioned by the economic forces of capital and the corrupting influence of capitalist state machinery.

And within this motley crew competition is becoming more intense with the result that a fair number of them are violating their own class morality. It seems in order to 'con' the working class but not to commit the eleventh commandment of being found out deceiving your own 'well-to-do' class.

the working class should awaken to realise that there would be no fallen idols if they the workers had not built up these idols themselves. Of course the working class are also influenced and conditioned by their own objective economic and social environment and the subjective influences of the poisonous propaganda served out by the apologists of our sick ridden society. It is therefore clear that before they can be shown that their idols have feet of clay they will have to understand their own environment and the causes of their conditioning.

nature

In the past man did not understand the forces of nature and so he attributed supernatural powers to them, the rain, thunder, storms, the sun and a host of other things were beyond his comprehension. With the aid of tools and science man finally mastered these natural forces and in understanding them he was freed from their bondage. But as yet he has not mastered the forces of his own creation, he does not therefore understand them. In our present society man produces goods for sale and in his sex life produces offsprings by design or accident. It is important what we produce but much more important how we produce and in what set of circumstances, what sort of economic and social relations prevail during the course of production. In the evolutionary process of human society the idea of possession of property germinated without realising the consequences. Side by side of the idea of possession of things grew the idea of possession of a sex partner. Because of the division of labour being in man's favour at a certain stage of historical development (man being the forager for food, the woman being domesticated in the household) man was able to insist on the woman being strictly a 'one man girl'. This was to ascertain that property would be transmitted to his exclusive offspring. So a code of morality was imposed upon the woman for economic reasons. Hence we had the embryo of our legalised property based form of marriage.

family

The form of the family has undergone several changes influenced by possession culminating in the compulsive monogamous family of our own day with the father being the official recognised head. We find then that in the production of commodities for sale in our present day society the mass of the people have to sell their labour power to live. But they produce more than what can sustain them. This surplus which is produced is usurped by the owners of the means of production who have acquired by one means or another the 'right' to exploit. The social relations emanating from such circumstances are therefore when all boiled down that of master and slave class. In the course of production of human beings it is compulsive morality which exercises an influence, an influence which is adverse to a healthy attitude of mind. One is subjected to thinking in terms of loving only within the confines of 'official' wedlock. Sex must be negated commands convention until wedlock is sanctioned. Cont, page 8

"WAR IS THE HEALTH OF THE STATE."

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SELLING DEATH

The Politics of Morality and the Morality of Politics . . .

The blacking of work on arms for the Chilean Junta, which has been called by the A.U.E.W. was a welcome step in the right direction. However, this raises the whole question of just how far British Capitalism is involved in the bloody arms trade.

The current campaign is directed against the fascist dictators in Chile, but the arms Barons are making fat profits from other military dictators.

While Britain does'nt match up to the two super powers U.S.A. and Russia but only comes fourth after France, Thousands of millions of pounds are made every year in the booming arms trade. Exhibitions for foreign arms buyers are laid on by the British Government through the Defence Sales Organisation which employs more than 200 civil servants. It has been in existence for seven years, when the organisation was set up Britian's arms sales were 'only' around £100,000,000 a year which is mere chicken feed.

This year Britian will be exporting £405,000,000 worth of arms, £40,000,000 more than last year. You may find somethings in short supply because of the Tories three day week during the 'power crisis'. However, the tanks kept rolling off the production lines, the armaments industry was specially exempted from the power restrictions.

FRANCE

France, has moved quickly to capture a large slice of the arms market, signing two deals recently selling Mirage fighter-bombers, ground-to-air missiles and tanks to Saudi Arabia, and Mirage interceptors to Abu Dhabi. A further deal is thought to have been negotiated with Kuwait.

Meanwhile, on the 11th. January, a \$900 million deal for 30 advanced F14A fighter aircraft was anounced between Iran and the U.S. The British Aircraft Corporation has also announced a contract with Iran to supply equipment to strengthen their Rapier anti-aircraft guided missile system.

Britian faces intensive competition from the French, and other countries. De Gaulle, encouraged the French armaments firms to supply almost anyone who could pay, and their arms sales trebled in four years. Last year, arms accounted for one twelfth of France's exports, earning them the equivalent of £1,000,000,000.

Russia and the U.S.A. sell arms at rock-bottom prices. They usually make their money later on spare parts. The arms dealers are sometimes undercut. The Nigerians have been hawking 50,000,000 rounds of ammunition at half the price asked by Iron Curtain countries. The ammunition was sold by Britian during the Biafran war. Millions of these rounds have been sold to the IRA at bargain prices.

As these figures show, the arms business is very profitable and British Capitalism is in it up to the neck.

CAPITALISM

Capitalism is a system which thrives on wars and rumours of wars. War keeps the workers in full employment and usually puts and end to slumps. It is easy to have factories working flat out, if your product is waste and destruction.

However, if it is something useful you are producing, the market must reach a saturation point, but with armaments there are no end to the clients.

The workers as a class take over industry to produce things for the satisfaction of our needs rather than things which are harmful to our very existence.

The bosses will not be beaten on the battle-field, but at the place of work and in the community.



the ownership of a number of public houses.

The canny draylads of Newcastle decided to take the company up on this last offer and selected the best three houses in Newcastle's west end. The Newcastle bosses right away back tracked and offered instead a perm list of any three from twelve beer houses, all of them or course in declining areas.

Despite the fact that the Scottish and Newcastle Breweries themselves save a pound for every one that they have to pay to the Newcastle draymen, they are still trying to diddle the lads. Another example of how the profit system is alright for the bosses but not for the lads.

CA' CANNY

The clever, clever men of the Scottish and Newcastle Breweries have been hoist with their own petard by the canny draylads of Newcastle.

Six years ago, Newcastle Breweries as it was then, decided to change over from road to rail delivery in their southern sales area.

To placate the union the Newcastle management offered to give half the delivery savings as a bonus to the remaining Draymen.

From an initial few thousand pound this bonus has grown to an annual figure of 120 thousand pounds, and now the company are trying to wriggle out of the agreement.

They tried several types of bribery, cash-in-hand, life insurance, pension, shares in the brewery and lo and behold

TAKE OVER THE FACTORIES!

The sit-in at the Meriden N.V.T. motor-cycle factory would seem to be on the point of being resolved by the usual method of the government throwing another million or five of public money to set up the Meriden workers in competition with their fellow workers at Worcester and Bromsgrove.

Meanwhile Mr. Dennis not so Poore is more concerned over the value of the factory premises and completed cycles at Meriden. Capitalism has its contradictions, but to witness a government agency paying up for property which they had bought in the first place.

LITERATURE

- Syndicalists in the Russian Revolution by G.P. Maximoff
- How Labour Governed 1945-1951 Lenin and Workers Control 22p.
- The Hungarian Workers Revolution 5p.
- The pamphlet "Workers Control" is being reprinted.
- Anarchism and Anarcho-Syndicalism by R. Rocker 20p.
- A.B.C. of Anarchism by A. Berkman 25p.
- Floodgates of Anarchy Christie & Meltzer 35p.
- Franco's Prisoner M. Garcia. £2.25.
- My Social Creed G.P. Maximoff 20p.
- Revolutionary Government. Kropotkin 5p.
- Anarchism in the May Movement in France. 6p.

Postage extra.

TYRED OUT?



Now that wage increases are geared to the rate of inflation, increasing prominence will be given to the more important areas of struggle. At the moment the main fight would seem to be for the reduction of the working week.

Liverpool, leading again as so often in the past has its Ford motor plant work force for the 11th consecutive Friday boycotting the final shift. Dunlop process workers at the Speke industrial estate have actually refused a pay bonus in preference toward a shorter working week and have themselves not only stopped coming in on a Friday night shift but have induced two Scottish Dunlop plants to support them.

We would hope that this tendency will increase, workers are concerned over the quality of life, short term disputes over wages are forced upon us by the system that we have to accept at the moment.

Cont. from page one.

When the outraged work-force voted with their feet on this imposition British Leyland management changed over to the usual capitalist diversionsary methods of setting Jack against Bill. Taking advantage of a localised dispute between transport staff and management, they introduced the red-herring of revolutionary-militants. When, after a fairly comprehensive inquiry the managements allegations have been disproved, they have moved to a new theme.

The new message is, that with a reduction in world markets the British Leyland worker must be prepared to make sacrifices not the management or stockholders of course. But if the work-force were prepared to accept redundancies, new work methods, time and motion, things might right themselves again for the management and shareholders.

It would seem to be true that there is going to be a recession in the light motor section of the car industry. It is certainly true that over the last twenty years that car workers have contributed a great deal to the general prosperity, at the expense of quality of life itself. As with the miners no amount of money can compensate for the soul-destroying monotony which is endemic to the car industry and which has far reaching consequences in family and social life. For what? Profit.

health in jeopardy

"They can compel the introduction of safety appliances of ventilation systems, and save in that way thousands of lives every year. If they have the power to bring that about by direct action, they have the power to reduce their hours, they have the power to increase or at least to better the labouring conditions round the mines and have better houses."

Big Bill Haywood.
Speaking in court on the miners.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The Health and Safety at Work Bill is now on its way through Parliament. The idea of this Bill is to lump together all work hazards, wherever they occur, under one single legislation, one administration and inspectorate.

Thus the Factories Act, the Mines and Quarries Act and other safety legislation dealing with particular industries will all be repealed in due course and replaced by more generalised legislation covering not only industrial but all types of employment including those at present not covered by safety laws.

While welcoming new legislation for areas not already covered, a critical look at the Bill shows its standard to be far below that of the Factories Act 1961 and the Mines and Quarries Act 1954.

In the Factories Act the employer has an absolute duty even if it meant stopping production or making the use of a machine impossible.

In the Mines and Quarries Act, all-owance being made for unpreventable hazards of nature, compliance with the Act is where practicable which in law means physically possible.

The New Bill revises the 'reasonably' practicable standard, what this means in legal terms is that when employers are considering what is 'reasonably practicable' they can weigh up the cost in cash and production terms, of a safety precaution and balance it against the risk to life and limb of not taking the precaution.

This standard was removed from the Mines and Quarries Act in 1954 after a determined fight by miners M.P.s.

Another loophole in the new Bill is Clause 41. Under the Factories Act proof of the offence means somebody is guilty, no excuses available. Under the Mines and Quarries Act proof of the offence leads to conviction unless the employers can prove it was not physically practicable to prevent the breach.

These tight provisions are completely lost under Clause 41:-

"It shall be a defence for a person charged with an offence under any of the relevant statutory provisions to prove that he exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of such an offence by himself or any person under his control."

This presents a massive loophole through the criminal enforcement of the safety codes in industry.

Trade unionists, especially miners and engineers, should be aware of this gerrymandering of these vital safety rules. After all, safety at work is only a basic human right.

These rights don't come easy and any erosion should be strongly resisted, your life may depend upon it.

WORLD NEWS

UNFREE STATE

Early in April, Dublin Special Branch, in one fell swoop, rounded up most of the known libertarians in the Dublin area. The charges include causing explosions at the Spanish Cultural Institute, Iberia Airways and various finance houses. Also armed robbery at Allied Irish Bank and from Contract Cleaners and as is usual, a whole battery of conspiracy charges, it would seem these comrades are being used as scapegoats to unload a lot of their unsolved crimes onto.

Charges up to date are; Bob Cullen 20 charges, Noel Murray 16 charges, Des Keane 16 charges, Columba Longmore 9 charges, Eddie Jones 1 charge, Marie McPhillips 9 charges. Charges against Pat Stephens appear to have been dropped, bringing the total to 70 charges.

The people arrested were active in various things, the New Earth group and Peoples Democracy, two of them were previously unknown to the rest before they were arrested. The accused have since been held in Military custody at Curragh army camp, they have the dubious distinction of being the first people in the "Free" (sic) State to be held in military custody.

The Curragh is a military fortress surrounded by barbed wire and manned machine gun posts. Its location is somewhat remote and although remand prisoners are entitled to one visit a day this is extremely difficult thus prohibiting the organisation of a proper defense.

The trial itself will be sometime after July 8th. this will be highly controversial. Under the recent emergency acts the need for inconvenient jury trials has been dispensed with, in its place is a panel of three judges, with a kangaroo set up like this it should be fairly straightforward to frame up are comrades, whoever heard of a neutral unbiased judge.

They have already produced their books of evidence containing statements from 93 witnesses and 144 exhibits, some of the charges go back as far as 1972, one interesting piece of evidence is an album of photographs of the cell where Columba was first held, it was covered with anarchist slogans.

Ed Jones is being held in military custody on a conspiracy charge simply because his passport was found in maries flat.



BLACK FLAG...organ of the Anarchist Black Cross. 10p. -3p. for a sample from: Black Flag, 83a. Haverstock Hill, London. N.W.3.

The comrades in the Curragh have stated they have no need of any money in the meantime, but they would welcome letters of solidarity (though mail is being intercepted) the address:

The Detention Centre,
Curragh Military Camp,
Country Kildare,
Eire.

Picketing of the Irish Embassy will be carried out when the trial opens. Protests could be sent to the Irish Embassy, the two main Points,

- 1) Detention in Military Custody.
 - 2) Trial without jury.
- Send to the Irish Embassy,
17, Grosvenor Place,
London. S.W.1.

J.P.



NURSES

Nurses joint action groups have made plans for a day of action throughout the country on July 8th.

These actions will vary from hospital to hospital according to their local circumstances.

Mental hospitals will probably have a one day stoppage while ordinary hospitals a two or three hour walk out. Also included are work to rules and a ban on private patients (permanently we hope) with demonstrations and marches.

The action groups have official support, albeit, reluctantly, it has been suggested to us that this is because they are hoping to attract recruits and of course, it is usually militants who do their recruiting.

INJURY TO ONE, INJURY TO ALL

A campaign for solidarity from other trade unionists has already begun, the Manchester dockers have staged one day token strikes. Other dockers and mine-workers throughout the country have pledged support.

This campaign must have the support of the whole trade union movement. It is not just a matter of wages alone, diabolical in itself, but of bad working conditions, long and unsocial hours with heavy responsibility, quasi military discipline, below par wage rates with agency nurses with whom they share the same work, private patients, bad training and pitiful allowances for students, ad infinitum.

It is in our own interests to ensure that the nurses fair and just demands are met, this would go a long way towards raising the sliding hospital standards and ending the malpractice of private patients.

For too long now nurses have been looked on as sort of angels of mercy but who has mercy on the angels? certainly not Enoch Powell according to him they do not need wages, "as they have excellent marriage prospects". Normally it is not our practice to quote idiots in our columns but this idiot was previously Minister of Health

Nurses can't afford to leave themselves in the hands of maverick politicians, careerist union leaders.

The best insurance against raw deals like this is union power in the hands of the rank and file.



PORTUGAL

After 48 years of fascist oppression in Portugal, we are glad to announce that the M.L.P. is still alive and fighting back against the opportunists of the Portuguese Communist Party (pro Moscow) and their front organisation in the trade union movement - A INTERSINDICAL - who are insidiously working in the newly freed Portuguese Unions, in order to regiment the Portuguese working class into Party line of class collaboration with the capitalist friends of Gen. Spínola.

We appeal to all comrades in this country and overseas to support ideologically and materially our anarcho-syndicalist friends in Portugal and help them to rebuild the C.G.T. (Confederacao Geral do Trabalho) and print a daily paper A BATALHA (The Battle).

Books, free copies of journals and magazines on anarchism, personal visits and money will be very much appreciated.

Please forward all you can spare to:
MOVIMENTO LIBERTARIO PORTUGUES
RUA ANGELINA VIDAL 17 - 2ª - Esquerdo
LISBOA 1 - PORTUGAL.



brittany

In the town of Lorient, which is in Brittany, Northern France. Motor mechanics who work for the six main garages in the town have been on strike for 11 weeks over a pay dispute. The strikers are asking for an extra 1.20 francs (12p) per hour, but their employers are only prepared to give them 40 centimes (4p) per hour, which the men are not prepared to accept.

Now they have set up on their own and have been doing repairs and washing vehicles. They have been doing this as a free service, but they have had a collection box which motorists have put in whatever they can, to help the strikers and their families. Up to yet the motorists who are benefiting greatly from this service have donated £2,000. What the motor mechanics want to try and do now is to raise £4,000 and find more suitable premises and set up on their own. With the success they have had in Lorient mechanics in 2 other nearby towns Vannes and Auray are to try and set up their own garages.

LUMPEN POWER

THE LUMP:

AN HERETICAL ANALYSIS. By Dave Lamb.

In the first half of this 'Solidarity' pamphlet, the author does a good hatchet job on the attitudes of the union bosses, employers and politicians toward the lump method of employment within the construction industry,

PROTEST

He points out that their objections are primarily directed against tax-evasion fiddles and looser management control over the work-force which the lump entails. He also throws a hefty brick or two in the direction of Labour and Communist party militants as well as outside left groups such as I.S. and I.M.G. all of whom he lumps together and accuses of mindless sloganing in the name of the great revolutionary party brands x, y and z. The author himself insists that the emancipation of the working class is the task of the working class itself.

THE PAST

The pamphlet also brings out the part played by the 1970 agreement, negotiated by the now defunct N.F.B.T.O. who hailed it as a great victory at the time, in breaking down site organisation. Although the agreement brought basic rates up to nearly £20 per week, it also signed away traditional craft rights and brought in group bonuses as opposed to the site bonus system which had been the rule up to that time. Group bonus brought to an end collective site bargaining and set one group of workers against another in a mad scramble for the easier and therefore better paid tasks. It can be said that the ending of collective site bonus set the scene for what has become one of the worst

features of the lump, inter-group rivalry. Gone the old spirit of 'want a hand pal' days. Since then it has been 'fuck off you can't use our mixer, cement etc'.

One factor which the analysis omits is the part which the introduction of S.E.T. played in the widespread furtherance of the lump system.

In the itemised analysis of objections to the lump, the pamphlet comes out with some very curious arguments to justify its preference (disguised) for the system. One that leaves me dizzy is that because Lumpers work within a Capitalist system, they are not responsible for the quality of their work. Do we all have to accept a poor pint of beer or a badly tailored suit for example, just because they are produced under the capitalist system?

It is when he comes to safety that the author surpasses himself. Because the Lumper works with mates of his own choosing. The work rhythms that they develop, their awareness of each others work methods, enables them to develop a safety consciousness, so that a case could be made out for Lumpers contributing toward a reduction in the number of accidents. This opinion will be heartily endorsed by those building workers walking home (if they are lucky) with a lump on their heads caused by a scaffold clip blithely thrown, well away from his own workmates of course, by a piece-work scaffolder.

The figures presented by the pamphlet in the section on accidents are misleading. In the period quoted there was a sharp reduction in the number of people employed in the building industry. During the last 2 years both the number and percentage of accidents in the industry has increased, including fatalities.

JUSTIFICATION

The final section presents the Lumper as a hard working chap in control of his own destiny who can do 8 hours work in 5, and if when he develops the screws or his hands begin to tremble, he will be told straight from the shoulder by his own workmates, Hard luck lad, it comes to all of us, and the old boss class would have done just the same. What a load of crap.

If a Lumper has time off, whether through sickness, accident or just booze His workmates will grab his share of the loot and share it out amongst themselves gleefully, and if he falls behind in his work, be he 71 Or 21, out he goes.

The pamphlet points out that the Lump, or piece work is nothing new. What is new is the attitude of the people who operate it.

We know from records that the miners and navvies of yesteryear looked after their own in good times and in bad. The people who operate the Lump in the construction industry look after themselves. If they could take time off from their money grabbing to coin a motto, it would be 'I'm all right, fuck you Jack'. If they were able to build up an ideology to justify their existence, the title would be 'LUMPEN'

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sex

7

Because sex is put in an absurd moral strait-jacket for economic motives previously mentioned men and women become mentally and emotionall disturbed. And in consequence we find on the one hand a pathological desire of some to become tyrants and on the other a mass of servile beings projecting the father figure complex in our institutions. No wonder than many of our workmates, no wonder most of us in all walks of life have some kind of neuroses. No wonder that many of us are disturbed and look to leaders. Healthy and strong minded people need no leaders, they lead themselves.

When we begin to grow out of our mental adolescence and give our institutions some examination we shall overcome just as primitive man did. When we understand the forces of our own creation no longer shall they dominate. As was once said, "the philosophers have merely interpreted the world, it is our job to change it". And change it we can by forgetting about leaders and so called experts, whether they be politicians, economists or what have you. Take a look around and examine a little instead of gaping at things and saying but somebody must tell me what to do.

The 'experts' talk and talk and write about our problems and offer cures for our ills. Cures which are really amusing the more they are preached. Inflation is in all their tips at the present. A new government now holds the reigns but still we hear the same old pronouncements. We are told that inflation occurs when too much money is chasing after two few goods. That it happens when pressure of demand on our resources overstrains the economic machine, that the less near we come to full capacity the less severe inflation will be, that a degree of unemployment is necessary or an extension of controls or in some cases both of these conditionings.

The theory behind this antidote for inflationary pimples on society's posterior is that on the one hand employers will be in a stronger position to resist wage demands whilst on the other they will be reluctant to increase prices if costs rise since demand will be less buoyant (due to unemployment or the threat of it which will encourage people to save rather than spend). There is also the contingency that the threat of dismissal by some means or other, perhaps even a pruning through productivity deals and the already existing dole queue

will act as an incentive to increased productivity, that is increased output per worker not necessarily increased total output. To the 'layman' who may protest that as he views it, the prosperity of the nation is determined by how much is produced individually and collectively utilising our technical resources in the most rational manner, the reply from our experts might be that it is regrettable that output may have to be controlled so that we don't produce as much as we could. 'Yes, it is most unfortunate', they may say, "when you think about the lost output, but you can't get this lost output without serving out incomes to the people who produce it. They will then spend the incomes pushing the economy back into overstrain". In effect what these 'experts' are saying is, "the material prosperity much spoken of can never be anything but a temporary and passing phase in our topsy-turvy society. There must be at all times a section of our society living in want, subsisting on the dole of social security.

WHY

Why? Are we really expected to swallow hook line and sinker that the material health of the nation is dependant on the reduced spending capacity of a section of the people? Such an argument only makes 'sense' when one sees the army of unemployed as a threat to higher wages and better working conditions and as an incentive 'through fear of the dole' to increased productivity. For then it will be possible to pay wages and the cost of living. The rich will continue to get rich and the worker will continue to struggle. Its a fallacy that the class struggle is over as some political quacks would have us believe.

A minority of workers are engaged in socially useful work so to say that the economy of the country will be healthier by reducing those workers rather than the parasitical growth which feeds off them may make 'sense' to professional economists and the apologists of the financial system but to any normal human not already brainwashed it is sheer lunacy. When the bulk of the workers get their brain cobwebs blown off they should start shouting from the housetops that the experts are wrong. But to think 'aloud' is not enough. One must act. You'll get all the 'free' speech you want so long as you don't act upon it. In any case 'free' speech given is something which can be taken away. What does it matter? if free speech is given to sheep, they only bleat. Real men and women must take their freedom by taking hold of their heritage, by reclaiming the means of production and distribution. Free access to material existence is the basis of all other freedoms, Lead yourselves to this conclusion.

R. Lynn.

The largest single number of squatters take over properties which have been compulsorily purchased by the local authority for future developments roads etc, which may be planned for up to 10 years hence. In most cases the local authorities cut off essential services, gas, water, electricity etc, often they also rip up floor boards and board up doors and windows, but people are so desperate for shelter that they break in and squat even in these squalid circumstances. A lot of these properties could, and should be put back in a reasonable state of repair by the local councils to ease the housing shortage instead of lying empty and derelict for years until the powers-that-be decide to use the space.

The Heath government threw £100 million of public money into the coffers of the building societies as their method of solving the housing problem. This action did not produce one more house, it merely helped to boost the already rocketing prices of houses and land and all of it eventually ended up in the pockets of money-lenders and speculators.

The Labour government has already made £200 million available to local authorities for the purpose of buying up unsold new private housing at market prices and are apparently prepared to lay out £500 million more all public money, to pull the building societies and spec-builders chestnuts out of the fire for them.

We should insist that all this money, and more if needed should be used to build good quality council housing on compulsorily purchased land by a direct-labour force spec-houses just save the pockets of a few builders and land speculators.

Homelessness is the largest single problem that faces ordinary people in this country. It should not be a matter for speculation and profit. w. Allen.

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Our Aims and Principles

THE SYNDICALIST WORKERS' FEDERATION seeks to establish a free society which will render impossible the growth of a privileged class and the exploitation of man by man. The SWF therefore advocates common ownership and workers' control of land, industry and all means of production and distribution on the basis of voluntary co-operation. In such a society, the wage system, finance and money shall be abolished and goods produced and distributed not for profit, but according to human needs.

THE STATE: The State, in all its forms, embodying authority and privilege, is the enemy of the workers and cannot exist in a free, classless society. The SWF does not therefore hope to use the State to achieve a free society; it does not seek to obtain seats in the Cabinet or in Parliament. It aims at the abolition of the State. It actively opposes all war and militarism.

CLASS STRUGGLE: The interests of the working class and those of the ruling class are directly opposed. The SWF is based on the inevitable day-to-day struggle of the workers against those who own and control the means of production and distribution, and will continue the struggle until common ownership and workers' control are achieved.

DIRECT ACTION: Victory in the fight against class domination can be achieved only by the direct action and solidarity of the workers themselves. The SWF rejects all Parliamentary and similar activity as deflecting the workers from the class struggle into paths of class collaboration.

ORGANISATION: To achieve a free, classless society the workers must organise. They must replace the hundreds of craft and general trade unions by syndicalist industrial unions. As an immediate step to that end, the SWF aids the formation of workers committees in all factories, mines, offices, shipyards, mills and other places of work and their development into syndicates, federated nationally. Such syndicates will be under direct rank and file control, with all delegates subject to immediate recall.

INTERNATIONALISM: The SWF as a section of the International Working Men's Association, stands firm for international working class solidarity.



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